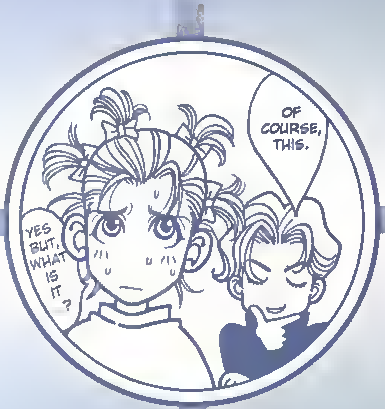
OUCH! WHAT ARE YOU DOING?!
.....


OF COURSE, THIS.
YES. BUT, WHAT IS IT ?

DEAR+COMICS 007

SLEEPER 2

スリーパー

カトリーヌあやこ

CATHERINE AYAKO カトリーヌ・あやこ

BEAT COMICS
SLEEPER2
KATSUHIRO OTOMO PRESENTS

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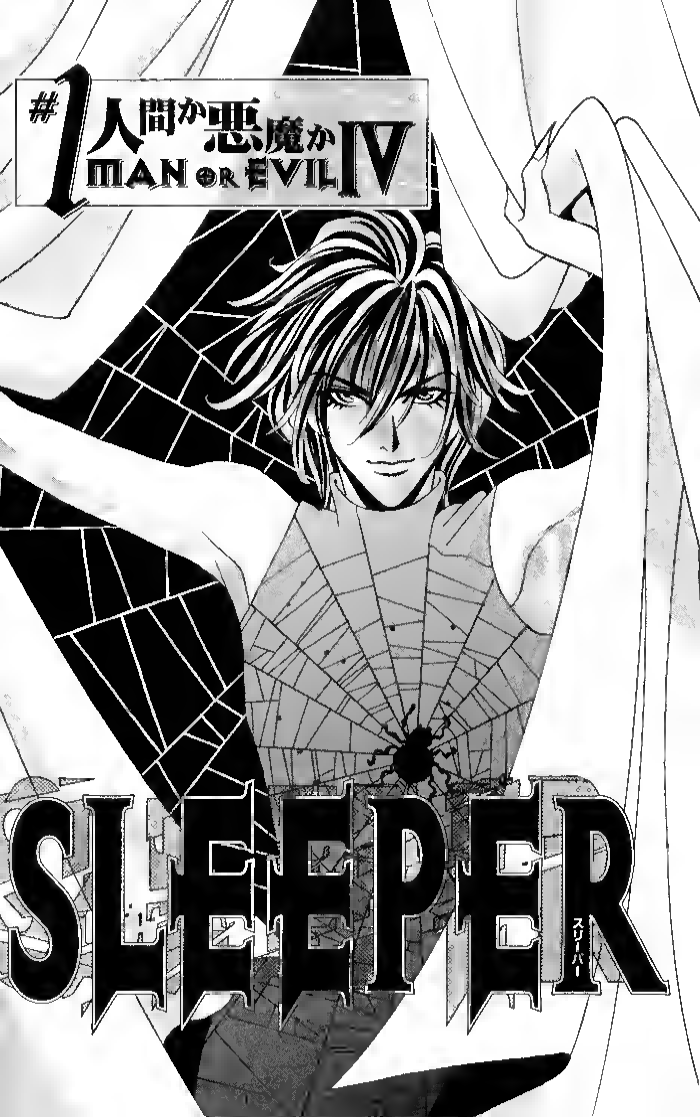
Sleep Walker ―― 170

THUD
THUD
WHAT IS IT RYU?!
THE MALEVOLENCE IS BECOMING STRONGER ....
GET A HOLD OF YOUR-SELF!!
....TSU
MI...
MIKI ....
A DEMON ....


#1
人間か悪魔か
MAN OR EVIL IV
SLEEPER
スリーパー

WHY IS A DEMON THAT EATS NIGHTMARES HERE...?
KU KU KU KU
MIKI ...!!

FSSHHHH
FSSHHH
YOU...
...UU
I DON'T CARE WHO IT IS, ANYONE THAT HURTS MIKI....
I'LL KILL YOU!!
SLIP

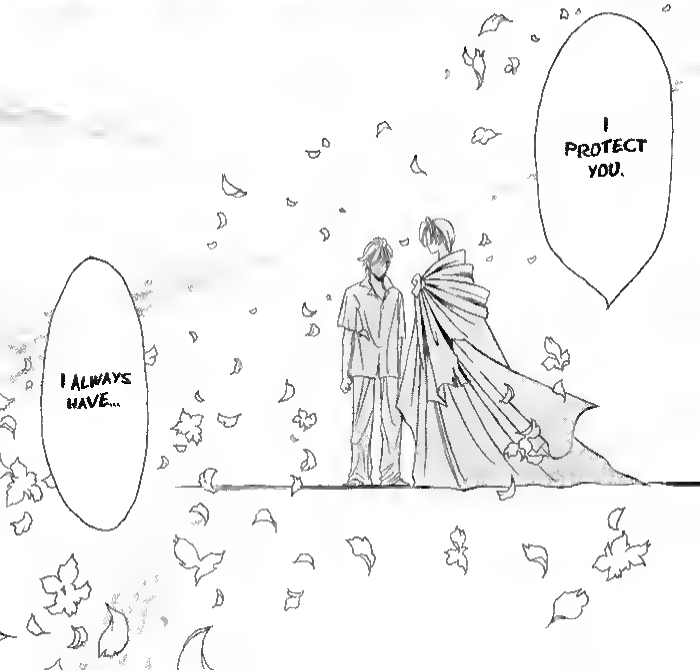
KU...
KUKUKUKU...
LEAP
SWOOSH
UOWAAA-QUTSUO-KUIN...
ZUZU
DEMON WORDS..
JUST
YOU
OUMA
AN
ARE

MIKI...
MIKI!
DAMN IT.
SUCH POWER ...!
YOU ARE THE ONE THAT WILL DIE
SFX: WOOSH
UGH!
SUINOO-OFUAA-UOMIAA-UEEE
THUD
WAH!

I THOUGHT I HEARD ROW'S VOICE.
AM I
STILL DREAMING ..?
GET AWAY FROM THAT GATE!

CLANG
WHO
ARE YOU?

I FEEL AT PEACE SEEING THAT SMILE.
I WONDER WHY.
GRAB


I PROTECT YOU.
I ALWAYS HAVE...

I DON'T SEEM TO REMEMBER
I'M SORRY
UMM
WE MET SO LONG AGO
YOU JUST DON'T REMEMBER
IT'S ALL RIGHT
BECAUSE I CAN ONLY MEET YOU
IN YOUR DREAMS.

ARE YOU ...A GUARDIAN SPIRIT?
Are you mine?
My great-grandfather or something.
NO.
NOT AT ALL.
THANK-YOU, MR. SPIRIT.
I TOLD YOU, I'M NOT A SPIRIT ...!
BOW...
BUT,
I don't really understand, but
YOU WERE PROTECTING ME, THOUGH I HAD NO IDEA...
RED PETALS?
A DREAM DEMON

YOUR NIGHTMARE CALLED A DREAM DEMON
SWOOSH
ROW?!

ROW!!
ROW!!
MIKI...
I PROTECT YOU.
IT'S NO USE. YOU CAN'T REACH HIM FROM THE DREAM WORLD
IT DOESN'T MATTER TO ME WHAT HAPPENS TO THAT ONE
DO SOMETHING! ISN'T THERE A WAY TO HELP HIM?!

YOU
EVERYTHING ELSE CAN DIE.
SAID YOU PROTECT ME, RIGHT?
ONLY YOU ARE IMPORT-ANT.
WHAT ...?
THEN WHY CAN'T YOU PROTECT WHAT'S IMPORTANT TO ME?!

THAT'S RIGHT
WHAT'S IMPOR-TANT TO YOU..?
AS IMPORTANT AS YOU ARE TO ME?
I DON'T KNOW!
I DON'T KNOW, BUT...

HE'S SOMETHING I NEVER WANT TO LOSE...

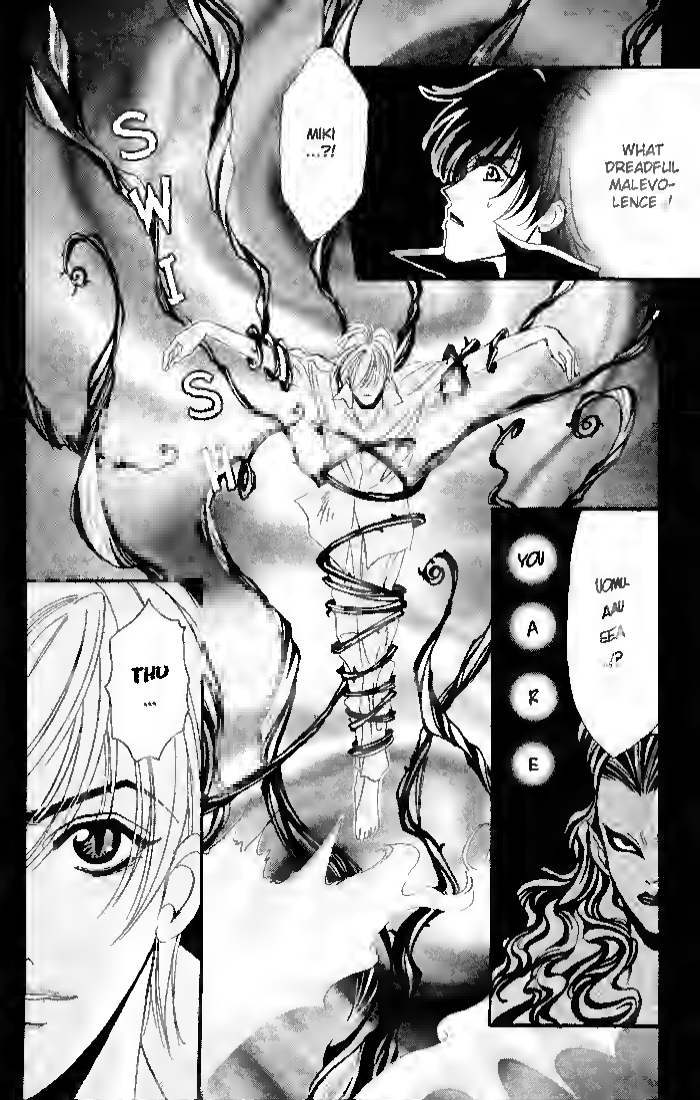
IF YOU WANT
TO SAVE THAT ONE...
SQUEEZE
I WILL HAVE YOUR BODY.
WHA...?!

ARE YOU OKAY WITH THAT?
MI...KI...
YOU'LL REALLY SAVE HIM?
YES

SOMETHING ENTERS ME....!
FROM HIS LIPS...
FROM HIS FINGER-TIPS...
FROM EVERY PART THAT TOUCHES ME...
RUSTLE

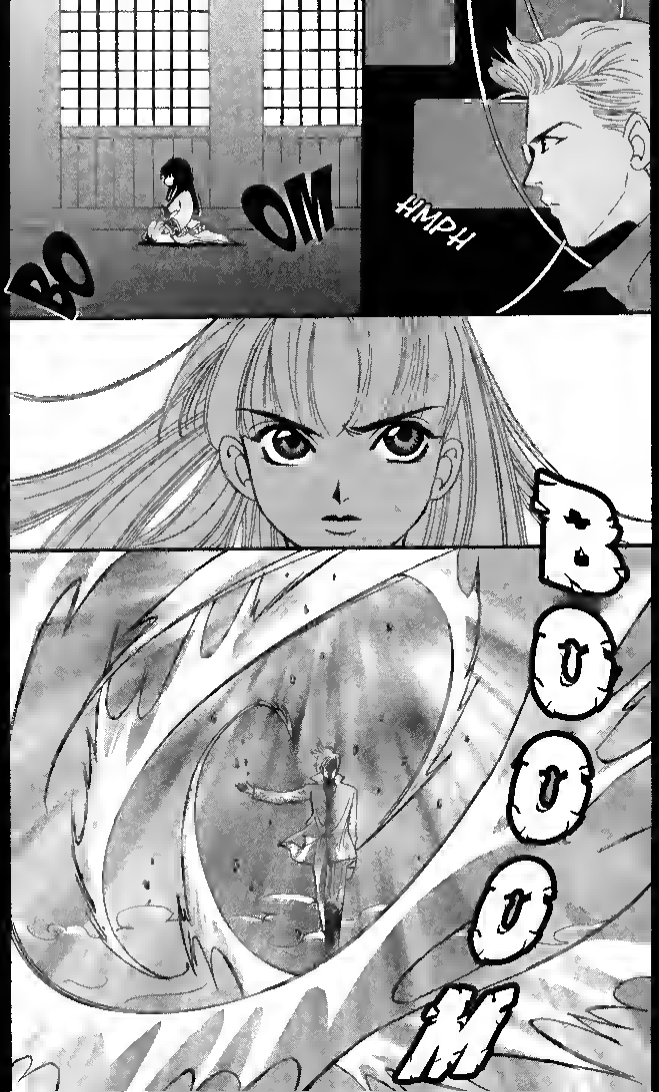
MI...
KI
....
ROW
——
!!
ROW...
HO....

HITS
FLOAT


WHAT DREADFUL MALEVOLENCE!
MIKI ...?!
SWISH
YOU ARE
THU ...

ER
D
TEAR
TEAR
N
FLASH
LIGHTN-
ING!
MBLE

BANG
.....?!
RATTLE
CLATTER
SPLA
CRAP, THE ELECTRICITY'S GOING TO SHORT!
WHAT?! THUNDER?
WOOSH
FLASH
CRACK
RATTLE
PIPIPI


BO
OM
HMPH
BOOOOM

SCREECH
DIE ...
HISS
TSW
FLARE
BOOM

GAAAH
IGNITE
FSHHH
FSHHH
.....

MIKI!!
THUNK
RUMBLE

MIKI
...
SQUEEZE
WHAT IN THE WORLD ARE YOU ..
AN OMINOUSLY MALEVOLENT POWER ...!

YOU MUST FORGET, ROW...
SUZU-BAA!
DON'T TELL ANYONE ABOUT TONIGHT.
MIKI WON'T REMEMBER ANYTHING WHEN HE WAKES UP, EITHER

DO YOU KNOW WHAT MIKI IS, SUZUBAA?

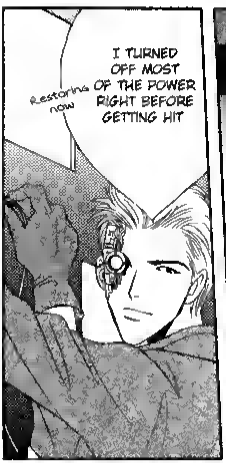
HE'S USED HIS POWER FOR THE FIRST TIME ...THAT'S ALL.
THAT WAS BEYOND AN OUMA'S POWER
HE WAS LIKE...
A DEMON.

I...
THEN WHAT WAS THAT?!
YOU CAN'T TELL THE DIFFERENCE FROM A DEMON HAVING LIVED WITH ONE SINCE YOU WERE SMALL?
WHO ARE YOU SAYING IS A DEMON?!
I WANT TO ALWAYS BE WITH HIM...
NO MATTER WHAT HAPPENS,
I WANT TO BE WITH HIM....

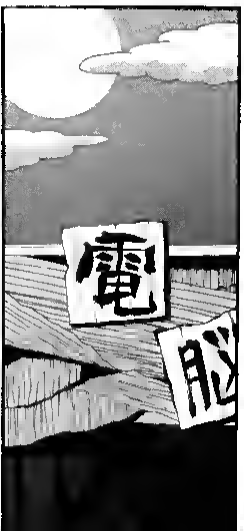
MIKI...
I WANT TO KNOW...
WHAT YOU ARE...

DO YOU WANT MIKI TO REAMAIN UNSULLIED?
THEN DON'T ASK ANYTHING
SUZUBAA
IF YOU WANT TO BE WITH HIM
DON'T SAY ANY-THING

MIKI WILL SUFFER MORE THAN ANYONE...
IF HE LEARNS THE TRUTH...


I TURNED OFF MOST OF THE POWER RIGHT BEFORE GETTING HIT
Restoring now

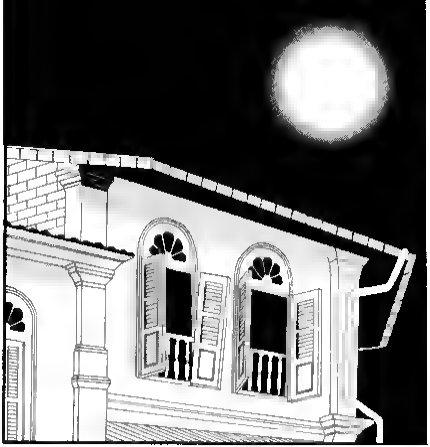
KAIMEI, ARE YOU ALL RIGHT?


電

THAT WAS NO ORDINARY LIGHTNING
YEAH, YOU COULD SENSE THE INCREDIBLE MALEVOLENCE
MALEVOLENCE USUALLY CARRIES ONLY A SLIGHT AMOUNT OF ELECTRICITY.
BUT THAT WAS OUTRAGEOUS
WOW! KAIMEI CAN MOVE WITHOUT ELECTRICITY!
You know, Crow-chan.
HE'S HALF HUMAN, EVEN THOUGH HE LOOKS LIKE THAT.
maybe I shouldn't?
OH? WE HAVE A CUSTOMER NOW?
Ah— He's Offended!

NO, I CALLED HIM HERE
I BROUGHT THE THING KAICHI ASKED ME TO
THE OUMA WARD BRAND PERFUME, 'DARKNESS'.
YOU TOLD ME TO FIND SOME, RIGHT?
YEAH
SNIFF
HEY! WHAT ARE YOU DOING!
SQUEAK
WAH!
SPRAY

PI
PI
PI
DEMON BONES
That's dangerous
WHILE IT'S ONLY A MINISCULE AMOUNT IT CONTAINS POWDERED DEMON BONES
WHAT? SOMETHING WRONG?
AS I THOUGHT
JUST A LITTLE
NOT ENOUGH FOR PEOPLE TO BE AFFECTED BY THE MALEVOLENCE



ENOUGH TO MAKE IT EASIER FOR HUMANS TO HAVE THEIR SOULS TAKEN BY DEMONS...

THE SCENT OF DARKNESS

HEY, YOU'RE AWAKE?
ROW ...?
WHY ARE YOU HERE...?
THAT'S NOT IMPORTANT. GO BACK TO SLEEP.
WHAT HAPPENED? YOU'RE HURT.
HUH...?
THE ENTIRE ROOM
IS WRECKED

A DEMON ATTACKED?
YES... I HEARD RYU SCREAM WHEN I CAME...
WHAT ABOUT RYU?!
HE'S FINE... HE GOT SOME SCRATCHES AND IS SLEEPING NOW...
SUZUBAA IS WATCHING HIM.
REALLY

SORRY.
IT WAS A WEAK ONE, SO I TOOK CARE OF IT PRETTY QUICKLY.
I WAS SLEEPING THE ENTIRE TIME.
And you ended up with this disaster area?
?
A DREAM IN WHICH SOMEONE PROTECTS ME.

WELL- I DON'T REMEMBER IT VERY WELL, BUT IT WAS LIKE A GUARDIAN SPIRIT
Spirit
SOME- ONE
A SMILE THAT IS FAMILIAR, FOR SOME REASON
THAT I SEE IN MY DREAMS

I'LL PROTECT YOU!
NOT SOME DREAM!
WHAT'S WITH YOU ALL OF A SUDDEN?
I'LL PROTECT YOU, SO DON'T GO ANYWHERE... NO MATTER WHO CALLS YOU!
...WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?

I'LL BECOME MUCH STRONGER...
I'LL BECOME STRONGER...
SHUT UP!
CAN YOU REALLY SAY THAT WITH A FACE COVERED IN WOUNDS?
STAY IN MY ARMS...

ROW
..
BUT IT WOULDN'T STOP
CHATTER
CHATTER
AND SO I LEEP

AND THAT———————— IS DARKNESS

DEMON EYES, LOVED BY DARKNESS
MIKI
I'LL DO ANYTHING TO KEEP YOU WITHIN THE LIGHT
#1 人間か悪魔か MAN OR EVIL V

#1
人間か悪魔か
MAN OR EVIL V

HEY, RYU! DON'T SWIM, YOU'LL GET DIZZY.
BUBBLES
ROW, COME IN TOO!
SPLASH
I'LL PASS...
AFTER I WAS ATTACKED BY THAT DREAM DEMON...
SPLISH

ROW
HM?
HE SEEMED TO BE BROODING ABOUT SOMETHING
ROW WOULD SUDDENLY FALL SILENT.
IF YOU WANT TO,
WHY DON'T YOU JUST LIVE HERE?
I DON'T MIND AT ALL
SORRY THAT THE TWO OF US ARE CRASHING AT YOUR PLACE

AND WE'RE USED TO LIVING IN THE KIJIN TOWN
...BUT THE REPAIRS TO OUR PLACE ARE ALMOST DONE
WHAT IS IT?
ROW?
USED TO LIVING THERE? WHAT IF YOU GET ATTACKED AGAIN?!
SORRY
FLUTTER

LET'S HAVE A FLOWER VIEWING!
THAT REMINDS ME, I HAVEN'T SEEN HER WITH ALL THE RECENT TROUBLES
A CHERRY BLOSSOM PETAL?
EVEN HERE
ROW!

A FLOWER VIEWING?
AT THAT CHERRY BLOSSOM TREE IN THE HUMAN CEMETERY?
YAY! I'VE HAD WAY TOO MUCH FREE TIME SINCE WE'VE BEEN GROUNDED!
I'LL MAKE LOTS OF GOOD FOOD!
THAT SOUNDS GOOD
HUMANS WON'T COME IF IT'S AT NIGHT
I'M GOING TO BUY SWEETS WITH RIN!
At the store in the coastal area
SEE YOU AT THE TREE LATER!

SQUEEZE
LET'S GO BEFORE THE SUN SETS
Yeah
BE CARE-FUL!
There are a lot of humans around!
I want the salted nori potato chips!
GAH!! WHY ARE YOU HOLDING MY HAND?!
WHY NOT?
IT'S JUST THE TWO OF US
CLICK
CLICK
CLICK
DID YOU GET IT?
SURE THING!

AN EXCLUSIVE SCOOP! PICTURES OF SLEEPER ON BREAK
WE HAVE THE OPENING PIN-UP RESERVED FOR IT, SO WE'RE COUNTING ON YOU
HEY, THEY'RE GOING INTO KIJIN TOWN
DON'T LOSE THEM!
DID WE HAVE TO TURN HERE?
IT'S FURTHER IN...
THE STREETS HERE CHANGE SO QUICKLY.
The town itself is a monster

IT'S GOTTEN PRETTY DANGER-OUS
HOW FAR IN ARE THEY GOING?
WARNING!
BEEP
HUMANS ARE PROHIBITED BEYOND THIS POINT
WAIT.
DAMN! WE'VE REACHED THE BORDER! LET'S GO BACK!
BEEP
BEEP
NOW THAT'S A SCOOP!
THE SLEEPER BEYOND THE BORDER. NO ONE'S TAKEN PICTURES OF THAT
WARNING!
THERE IS NO GUARANTEE ON THE LIVES OE HUMANS WHO CROSS THE BORDER
BEEP
BEEP

CHITTER CHITTER
UUHN...
AS I EXPECTED! EVERYONE AVOIDS YOU BECAUSE YOUR MALEVOLENCE IS STRONG MAKES IT EASY TO WALK.
HERE IT IS.
WE'RE HERE, MIKI
SO I MIGHT AS WELL BECOME A DEMON.
THEN I CAN TAKE ON ANYONE, NO MATTER HOW STRONG THEY ARE
...ROW?

GREAT, THE MOON VIEWING WELL IS STILL HERE!
DID IT DRY UP?
IT'S FINE WE CAN SEE THEM
THE MOON AND STARS ARE REFLECTED ON ITS SURFACE EVEN DURING THE DAYTIME
EVEN SUNLIGHT DOESN'T REACH THAT DEEP
SUZUBAA USED TO MAKE US DRAW THIS WATER A LOT
Wow, that's valid cause
DEMONS LIKE PURE, CLEAR WATER, AFTER ALL

LET'S DRAW SOME WATER AND GO
This is so deep
WHY'RE THEY DRAWING WATER HERE?
Is it the tasty water of the Quinn Wars?
CLICK CLICK CLICK
LET'S LEAVE AS SOON AS POSSIBLE!
PULL
HEY, DON'T PULL!
HUH?
AAAAAAAH!

NOOOOO!
SQUEAK
SOMEONE HELP US!!
MIKI?!
SPLASH
IF I DRAW THE DEMONS' ATTENTION TO ME
ROW!!
LEAVE THEM! THEY'RE GETTING WHAT THEY DESERVE!
GYAA!
WHY ARE THERE HUMANS HERE?!
THOSE GUYS ARE FROM THAT PHOTO MAGAZINE. THEY'RE ALWAYS IN FRONT OF MY HOUSE

MIKI'S LATE...
COME HERE!
SQUEAK
CHATTER
IT'S THE SMELL OF THE WATER YOU LOVE
MIKI!!
SQUEAK

YEAH
ROW SAVED HIM FROM A DANGEROUS SITUATION BEFORE, RIGHT?
ROW'S WITH HIM HE'LL BE FINE
BUT WHEN I GROW UP I'LL BE ABLE TO BEAT ANY DEMON!
YEAH, SOMEDAY WHEN YOU GROW UP
NOT ONLY SOME-DAY
EVEN NOW

ANYONE THAT HURTS MIKI
SHOULD ALL DIE. WHETHER THEY'RE HUMAN OR DEMON
...RYU
FSSHHH
SQUEAK

GROWL
YOU ARE SO. !!
WOOSH
ROW?!
GYAA
SMACK

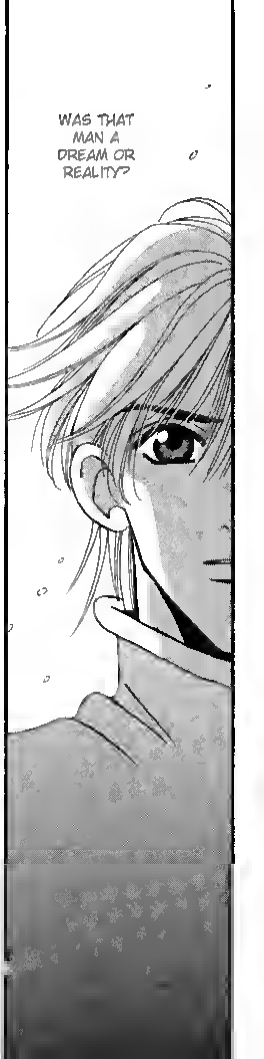
WHAT?
EXCUSE ME I WORK FOR THE OUMA WARD MUNICIPAL OFFICE
ARE YOU HURT?
SQUEAK
GO AWAY
SQUEAK
SQUEAK
MUNICIPAL OFFICE?
THE OUMA WARD
Are you a government worker?!
THIS GUY'S SUSPICIOUS

IT'S BEEN TROUBLESOME WITH SO MANY HUMANS CROSSING THE BORDER LATELY
WE MUST DO SOMETHING ABOUT IT
I'LL ESCORT THEM SAFELY OUT
IT'S WHAT THE MUNICIPAL OFFICE SHOULD BE DOING. LET'S GO, MIKI!
We've got the water
ROW
THANK-YOU FOR HELPING US!
THANKS!
TAP
TAP
IT'LL BE OUR RESPONSI-BILITY IF SOMEONE DIES
ARE THEY... DEAD?
Those two
They've fainted!
NOT AT ALL. I'VE SIMPLY ERASED THEIR MEMORIES OF THIS TOWN

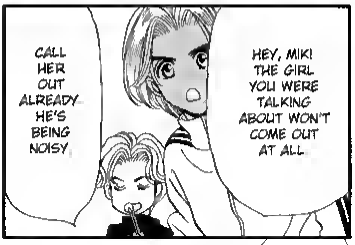
MEET AGAIN.
LET'S
I DON'T NEED TO SEE HIM AGAIN!
WHY ARE YOU MAD, ROW?
WHAT?
A SONG?
"When life ends
The pleasures of a thousand years is but a moment's dream."

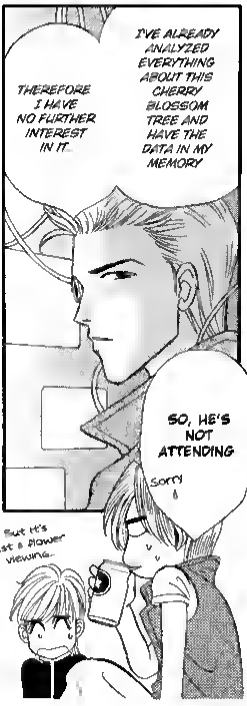
"Is everything a dream or reality?"
"Are we awake or asleep?..."
WHAT IS IT, MIKI?
HE'S NOT THERE?
MIKI...
IT'S... NOTHING...

YOU'RE LATE! MIKI! ROW!
SORRY!
They're here!
You gotta pay the penalty for being late!
They're already in full swing.


WAS THAT MAN A DREAM OR REALITY?

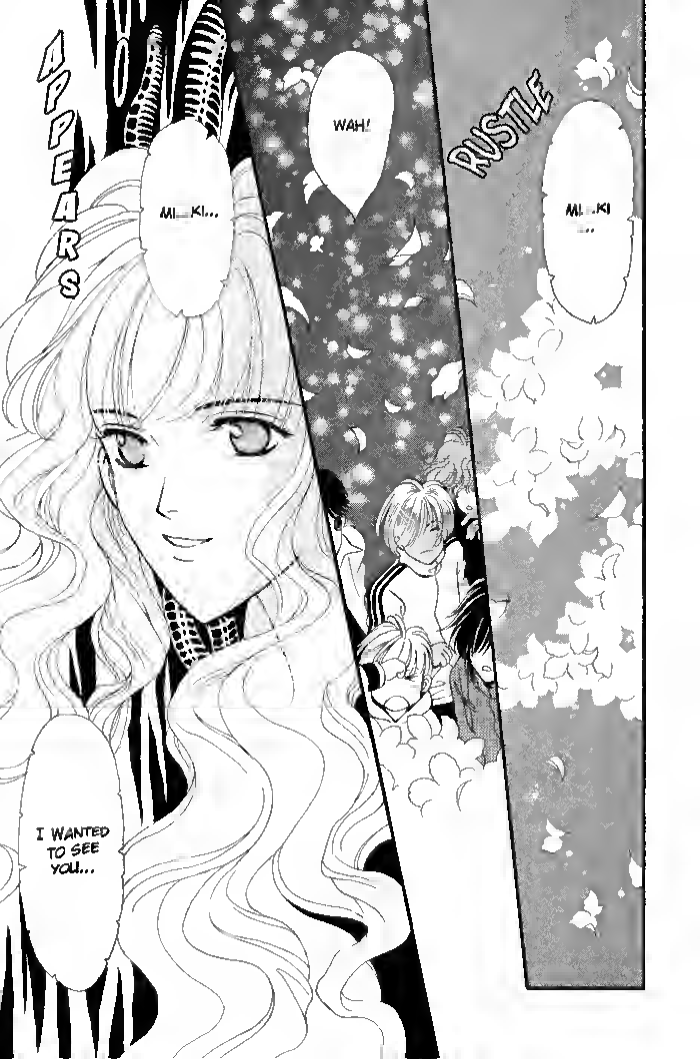
HEY, KAICHI! IT'S BEEN A WHILE!
OH? WHERE'S KAIMEI?
AH, HIM...


HEY, MIKI THE GIRL YOU WERE TALKING ABOUT WON'T COME OUT AT ALL.
CALL HER OUT ALREADY. HE'S BEING NOISY.


I'VE ALREADY ANALYZED EVERYTHING ABOUT THIS CHERRY BLOSSOM TREE AND HAVE THE DATA IN MY MEMORY
THEREFORE I HAVE NO FURTHER INTEREST IN IT.
SO, HE'S NOT ATTENDING
Sorry
But it's just a flower viewing...

KAY, WAIT A MINUTE
YOU TWO
WENT TO THE MOON VIEWING WELL?

RUSTLE
YUP. THE PUREST WATER IN THE OUMA WARD. YOU'RE THE ONE WHO TOLD US ABOUT IT.
DO YOU REMEMBER ME?
IT'S ME, MIKI
DON'T BE AFRAID, COME OUT.
EVERYONE HERE IS MY FRIEND.
THERE'S NOTHING TO BE AFRAID OF


RUSTLE
MI...KI
...
WAH!
APPEARS
MI...KI...
I WANTED TO SEE YOU...

YOU'RE BLOOMING SO BEAUTIFULLY.
YOU SEEM WELL.
ME TOO!
TO...
TO?
NO GOOD?
HM? WHAT ABOUT YOU CROW-CHAN?
QUITE THE...
SNAP
SNAP
10 points
10 points
10 points
10
10
10
OH MY...
WHOOSH
WHOAH! HE TRANCED!!
TOTALLY CUTE!!

DON'T WORRY! HE'S NOT DANGEROUS!
He's just an idiot!
STUNNED
GO AWAY
HO... HOW DO YOU DO?...
PLEASE TRY THE CRAB BALLS I MADE
I'M CROW!
CAN A CHERRY BLOSSOM EAT CRAB BALLS?!
YOU IDIOT!
WHAM
OUCH

FROM TONIGHT YOU'LL BE 'CHIHANA'
CHI··· HA ·· NA...?
IN APOLOGY, I'LL GRANT YOU A NAME
I'M SORRY. THESE FOOLS DON'T EVEN KNOW HOWTO FLIRT WITH A GIRL
NOT AT ALL .. THOUGH I CAN'T EAT CRAB BALLS...
BLOOM A THOUSAND FLOWERS
AND CALM THE WANDERING SOULS... THAT'S WHAT YOUR NAME MEANS*

*CHARACTER FOR CHI IS THOUSAND HANA IS FLOWER

CHI-HANA..
HM, FOR AN OLD LADY, YOU CHOSE A GREAT NAME.
You always name them what they are.
WHAT?!
CHIHANA ONEECHAN!
I'M RYU! I'M IN CHARGE OF SWEETS TODAY!
I'M RIN IN CHARGE OF ILLUMI-NATION
I'M MAO. YOUR HAIR HAS SOME SPLIT ENDS*
THE DEAD ONE OVER THERE IS KAICHI
KICK KICK
I'M ROW. IT'S NICE TO MEET YOU.
HEY.. THAT'S UNFAIR! ROW'S TRYING TO SHAKE HANDS WITH HER!
Why don't you do it too?

* "SPLIT END" IN JAPANESE IS EDAGE. THE CHARACTERS THAT MAKE UP THE TERM MEAN (TREE) BRANCH AND HAIR

NICE TO MEET YOU, ROW.
WHAT ...?!

TIME
STOPS...
?
FSSHH

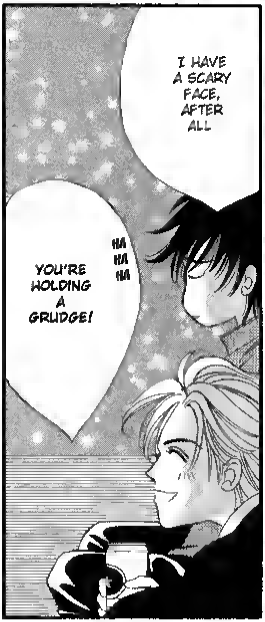
MIKI...
WHAT? WHAT IS THIS?
WOOSH
ROW...?

CHIHANA-CHAN?
NO!
!
WHAT IS IT, ROW?
WHAT?! DID ROW DO SOMETHING TO YOU, CHIHANA-CHAN?!

I'M SORRY.
MU...KI...
IT'S NOTHING.
I'M SORRY.
I DIDN'T DO ANYTHING
YOU DID SOMETHING WEIRD, DIDN'T YOU?!
ARE YOU ALL RIGHT, CHIHANA-CHAN?

HUH?
HM. IT SEEMS LIKE ROW'S NOT YOUR TYPE RIGHT, CHIHANA
WHAT?! MAO!!
I GOT IT! YOU WERE SCARED OF ROW'S FACE!
I'M SORRY.
AH... YES...
THAT'S IT, RIGHT?
SHO CK
Don't lump me in with you
SNIFF
WELL US TWO WITH THE SCARY FACES CAN DRINK TOGETHER!

LIMP
DAMN! WHO GAVE RYU ALCOHOL?!
Yeah!
Go for it!!
WHISTLE
I, KAICHI WILL SING A SLEEPER MEDLEY!


I HAVE A SCARY FACE, AFTER ALL
HA HA HA
YOU'RE HOLDING A GRUDGE!

MIKI...
WHAT'S GETTING YOU DOWN?

THANKS!
WANT TO DRINK SOME?
IT'S ALWAYS PRETTY ON THE OTHER SIDE
YEAH

ROW?
BUT—
I DON'T WANT TO ANYMORE
AND GO OVER THERE
WHEN I WAS YOUNG, I WANTED TO SLIP OUT OF THIS TOWN

I HAVE FRIENDS HERE—
AND AS LONG AS YOU'RE ALWAYS SMILING—

THAT'S WHY...
DON'T MAKE ME WORRY TOO MUCH.
KISS

THUD
GAH!
SWAY
WH...
WHA—
CHUCKLE
A LITTLE DRINK
MI... MIKI?!
AT LEAST ONCE IN A HUNDRED YEARS
YOU'RE SO ADORABLE.

WHAT'S THAT SUPPOSED TO MEAN?
IT MEANS ...
THIS

...MIKI.
...MM...
MI...KI...
ROW...
When I look up the starlight shines through the fragile flower petals

As the shadows cast by the petals dance around you...
RUSTLE
FSSHHH
MIKI...!
SQUEEZE
IT'S ALL RIGHT
I'M HERE

I'LL ALWAYS BE WITH YOU
—I WON'T FORGET

WHAT?
THIS DAY... THIS MOMENT...
I WON'T EVER FORGET...

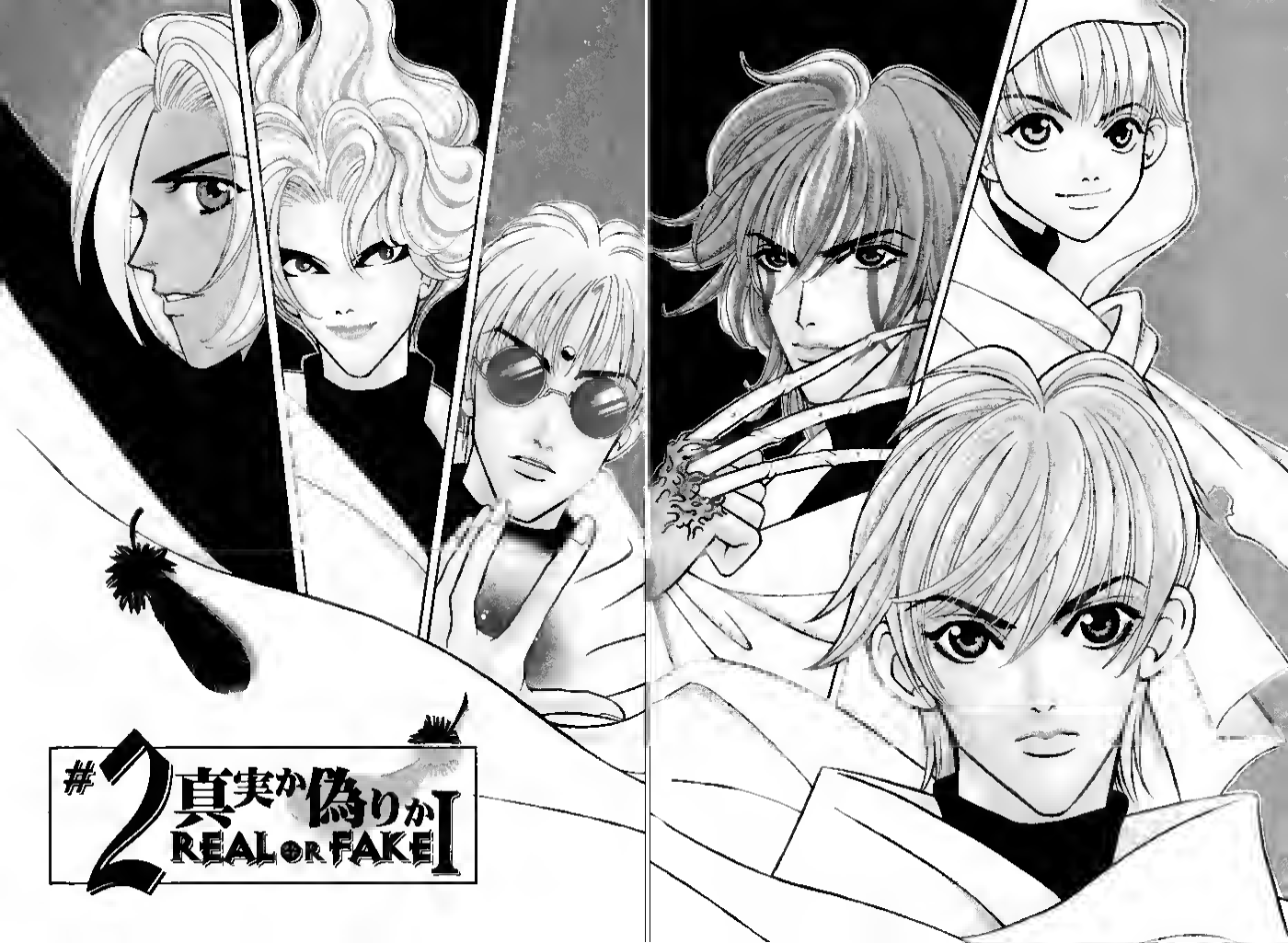
CHIHANA-CHAN
I'LL NEVER FORGET...
THIS DAY... THIS MOMENT...
NO MATTER WHAT DIFFICULT OR SAD THINGS HAPPEN
NO MATTER WHAT HAPPENS IN THE FUTURE

WHAT I SAW THE MOMENT I TOUCHED ROW'S FINGER...
I CAN'T TELL. I CAN'T TELL ANYONE.
I'M SORRY, CROW...
CROW...
WHY DO YOU LOOK SO SAD?
TELL ME IF SOMETHING IS BOTHERING YOU — I'LL DO ANYTHING

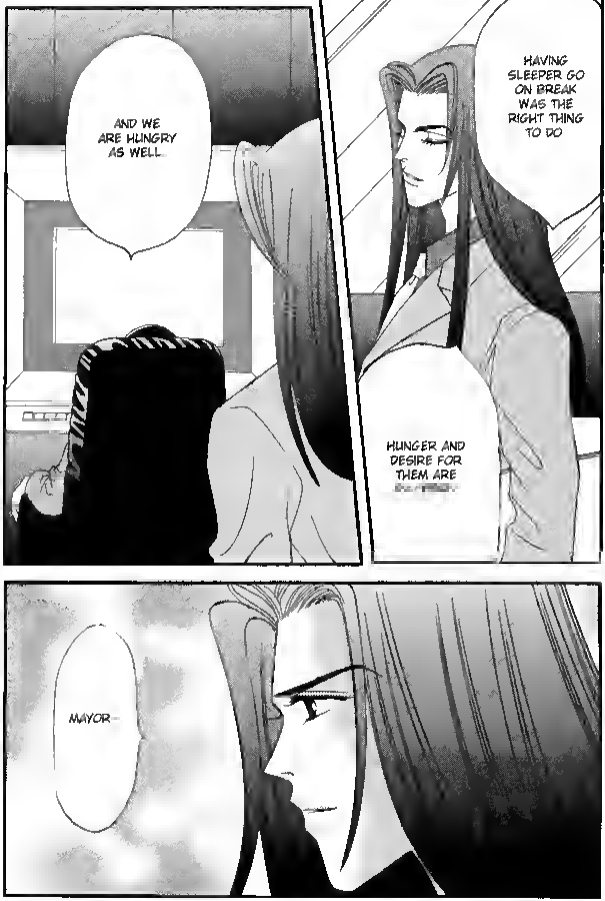
A VISION THAT WILL SOMEDAY COME TRUE...
WHAT SHOULD I DO? WHAT IS THE BEST THING TO DO?

ROW WILL KILL MIKI SOMEDAY...

ARE YOU SEEING
REALITY?
OR IS IT A MADE
UP DREAM?
#2 真実か偽りか
REAL or FAKE!


#2
真実か偽りか
REAL OR FAKE I

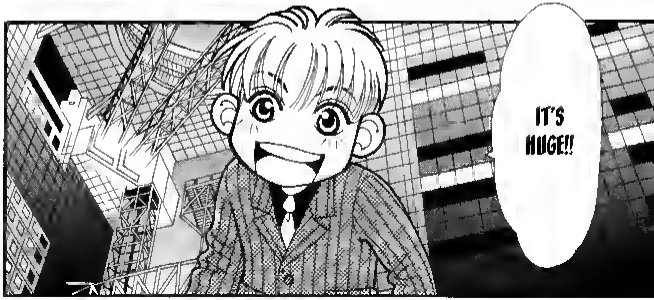
THE IMAGES OF ROW, MAO, AND CROW TRANCING DURING THE LIVE BROADCAST...
THEY ARE CURRENTLY BEING REPEATEDLY SHOWN AND SCRUTINIZED ON TV CHANNELS OUTSIDE OF THE WARD.


AND WE ARE HUNGRY AS WELL
HAVING SLEEPER GO ON BREAK WAS THE RIGHT THING TO DO
HUNGER AND DESIRE FOR THEM ARE
MAYOR—

IT IS GOING AS PLANNED
WE'LL TAKE THE PROJECT TO THE NEXT STAGE, BUT...
I LEAVE IT ALL TO YOU TSUGUMI
THANK YOU VERY MUCH
SLEEPER, HUH...

THOSE WHO HAVE NOT AWAKENED YET...
VROOOOOM
HEY MIKI! IT'S THE FIRST TIME WE'RE GOING TO THE WARD MUNICIPAL OFFICE, RIGHT?
WHAT IS THE MAYOR? WHAT KIND OF PERSON IS HE?
I'VE NEVER MET HIM EITHER...
THOUGH HE'D BEEN SOMEONE HIGH UP IN OCTAGON CORPORATION.

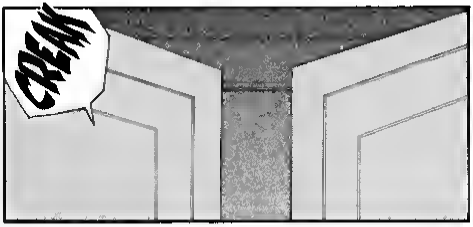
WHAT DOES THIS BIG-WIG WANT WITH US?
WHO KNOWS?
SUZU-BAA ONLY SAID WE WERE MEETING AT THE WARD MUNICIPAL OFFICE. RIGHT?
SINCE IT INVOLVES SCHOOLS...
WELL, IT'S NOT GOING TO BE ANYTHING GOOD...
DON'T MAKE ANY CONCLU-SIONS...


IT'S HUGE!!

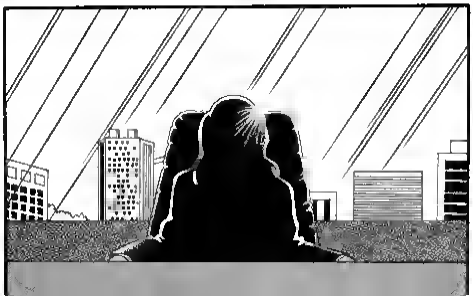
MAO?
HOW NICE, COMING TO WORK TOGETHER ALL LOVEY-DOVEY...
HEY, RYU! DON'T RUN!!
OH!
CROW-CHAN AND THE OTHERS ARE ALREADY HERE!
DASH
HE SAID HE'S GOING HOME AS SOON AS IT'S FIXED...
WE'RE NOT LOVEY-DOVEY...
I'M NOT SULKING!
OH, IS THAT WHY YOU'RE SULKING?
THE MAYOR IS WAITING FOR YOU. PLEASE, FOLLOW ME.
WHISTLE
She's gorgeous!
CLACK
YOU'RE SLEEPER?

WHOOOSH
HEY LADY, DOES THE MAYOR HAVE A FUNNY FACE?
S#####!
BUT YOU SAID SO CROW-CHAN!
I JUST HEARD A RUMOR LIKE THAT...
THE MAYOR RECEIVED TERRIBLE BURNS IN THE OCTAGON CORPORATION EXPLOSION.
SINCE THEN HE HAS CONCEALED HIS FACE...
OCTAGON CORPORATION'S ACCIDENTAL EXPLOSION
THE ONE THAT CAUSED E-DAY?

THE MAYOR IS NOT A MONSTER...
HE IS A KIND MAN.
ROW!
PERFECT AS THE MAYOR OF THE OUMA WARD?
HE'S DEFINITELY A MONSTER TO HAVE SURVIVED THAT ACCIDENT...


CREAK

PLEASE ENTER.



HIS 'FACE' (A MASK) IS LIKE THIS.
WELCOME, SLEEPER.
JOKE? IS THIS SUPPOSED TO BE A JOKE?
He's not a monster but a shiner rock!
ARE WE SUPPOSED TO LAUGH NOW?
THIS IS NOT A TIME TO LAUGH

TODAY WE'RE HERE TO TALK ABOUT WORK
LISTEN SERIOUSLY
SUZU-BAA!
LET'S GET DOWN TO BUSINESS
WE APPROVE OF SLEEPER WORKING AGAIN FROM TODAY
WE HAVE DECIDED TO GIVE YOU A NEW MANAGER
A NEW MANAGER?
ENTER

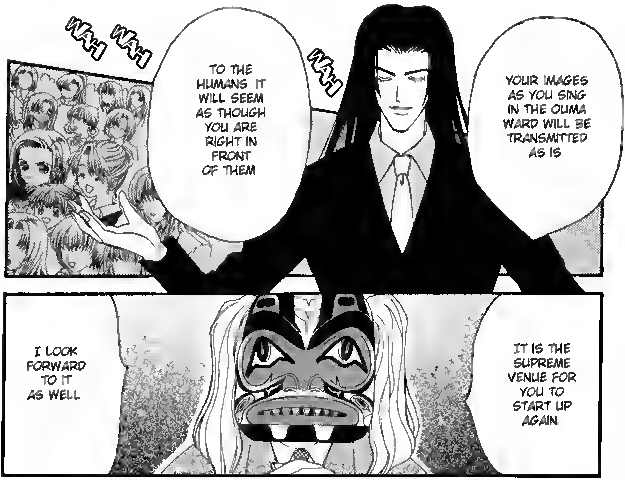
MY NAME IS TSUGUMI. IT'S NICE TO MEET YOU.
AH...
YOU'RE...
THAT TIME AT THE MOON VIEWING WELL...
WE MEET AGAIN
OH? YOU KNOW EACH OTHER?

THERE ARE NO CHANCE MEETINGS
THEY SAY ALL MEETINGS ARE CONNECTED TO PREVIOUS LIVES
HUMPH! WHAT AN EXAGGERATION!
WAIT A MINUTE!
THIS GUY IS GOING TO BE OUR MANAGER?
THAT'S RIGHT WHILE SUZUKA-SAN WILL CONTINUE TO MANAGE YOUR SCHEDULES
YOU'LL BE BUSY YOU'LL NEED ON SITE STAFF AS WELL
THIS ISN'T A JOKE!

THE CONTINUATION OF YOUR WORK
IS UPON THE CONDITION THAT TSUGUMI IS ON SITE WITH YOU
MAYOR
ROW...
LIKE WE CAN WORK WITH THIS WEIRD GUY?!
DON'T BE RIDICULOUS!
SO THAT YOU WON'T TRANCE RECKLESSLY
THEN WE WON'T WORK FOREVER!!

YOU HAVE NO RIGHT TO DECIDE
ROW!!
SUZU-BAA...
WE CAN'T LEAVE THE WARD, RIGHT?
OUTSIDE OF THE WARD?
A LIVE BROADCAST ON A MUSIC PROGRAM OUTSIDE OF THE WARD
THEN
LET ME TELL YOU ABOUT YOUR FIRST JOB.

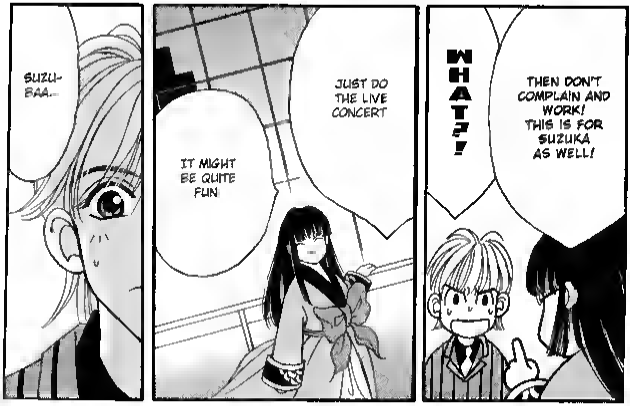
THAT'S CORRECT.
THAT'S WHY WE WILL TRANSMIT YOUR 3D IMAGES TO A CONCERT HALL OUTSIDE OF THE WARD.
IT WILL BE A SLEEPER VIRTUAL LIVE CONCERT.
WAWA
VIRTUAL LIVE CONCERT?

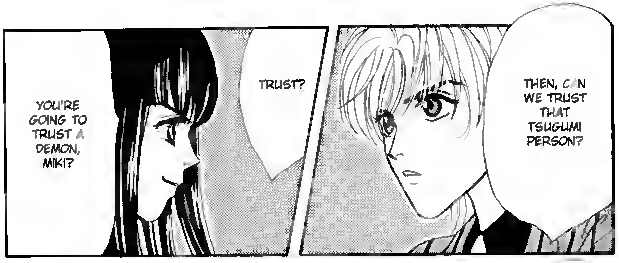

WAH! WAH!
TO THE HUMANS IT WILL SEEM AS THOUGH YOU ARE RIGHT IN FRONT OF THEM
WAH!
YOUR IMAGES AS YOU SING IN THE OUMA WARD WILL BE TRANSMITTED AS IS
I LOOK FORWARD TO IT AS WELL
IT IS THE SUPREME VENUE FOR YOU TO START UP AGAIN.

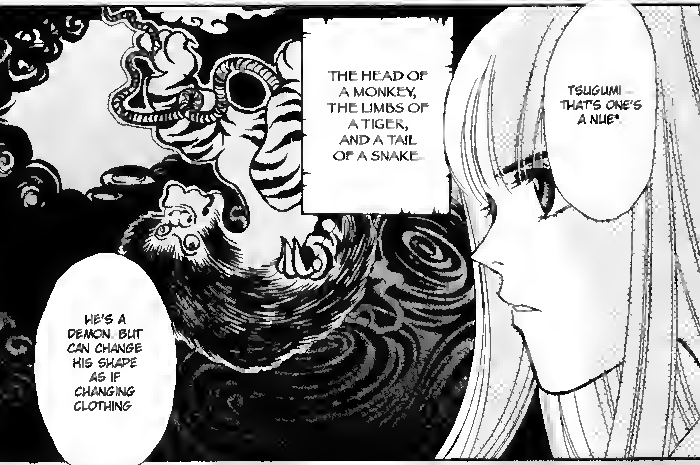
YOU GUYS!
HAPPY
We've never done one!
We're idols after all
I DO! I DO!
BUT DON'T YOU WANT TO DO A LIVE CONCERT?
I WONDER IF THEY CAN REALLY DO SOMETHING LIKE THAT?
A VIRTUAL LIVE CONCERT?

HE'S BEEN SULKY ALL DAY.
ROW'S SCARY...
I'M NEVER GOING TO APPROVE OF THAT TSUGUMI GUY!
KECCH
STOP BEING SO HAPPY!
ALL OF A SUDDEN WE'RE TOLD THAT WE HAVE A NEW MANAGER...
OF COURSE ROW'S GOING TO SNAP
YOU SAID?
ARE YOU DISGRUNTLED AS WELL, MIKI?
ARE YOU GUYS PROS?
YOU'RE TOO SOFT!
SUZU-BAA...

PROS ARE...
WE ALL
GOT THIS FAR BECAUSE YOU WERE THERE SUZU-BAA
FOR SUZU-BAA WHO HAD TAKEN CARE OF US
THAT'S WHY WE'RE IDOLS


WHAT?!
THEN DON'T COMPLAIN AND WORK! THIS IS FOR SUZUKA AS WELL!
JUST DO THE LIVE CONCERT
IT MIGHT BE QUITE FUN
SUZU-BAA...




THE HEAD OF A MONKEY, THE LIMBS OF A TIGER, AND A TAIL OF A SNAKE.
TSUGUMI — THAT'S ONE'S A NUE*.
HE'S A DEMON, BUT CAN CHANGE HIS SHAPE AS IF CHANGING CLOTHING

SINCE THEN STRANGE AND AMBIGUOUS THINGS ARE CALLED NUE-LIKE.

APPEARING WITH BLACK CLOUDS SCATTERING LIKE THE WIND,

* NUE = JAPANESE CHIMERA

TSU... TSUGUMI-SAN?!
WHAT A THING TO SAY.
PAT
WELL, THEIR VERY EXISTENCE IS LIKE A MYTH.
THAT'S TOTALLY UNTRUST-WORTHY!!
EVEN AFTER A THOUSAND YEARS, YOU'RE STILL GOOD AT LYING
T-THOUGHT YOU'D NO SUE?!
EVEN AFTER A THOUSAND YEARS YOUR BEAUTY AND BAD MOUTH HAVEN'T CHANGED
NO, NOT AT ALL SUZUKA-SAN AS WELL.

SUZU-BAA...?
LIES ARE WRITTEN AS "FOR THE SAKE OF PEOPLE"*
WHO ARE YOU LYING FOR?
CAN'T YOU TELL?
...IF I WAS GOING TO LIE...
GLITTER
IT'D BE FOR MONEY!
LET'S LEAVE IT AT THAT...

* THE KANJI FOR LIE IS MADE UP OF TWO PARTS - EACH ONE CAN BE A SEPARATE KANJI. "PEOPLE" AND "SAKE"

I'M SURPRISED
YOU REALLY WERE IDOLS
FUNNY, ISN'T IT?
OUR CATCH PHRASE IS "DEMONS WHO SING AND DANCE"
MIKI...
BUT TAKE MIKI, HE HATED DANCING A LOT IN THE BEGINNING
I WANTED TO LET YOU KNOW FIRST, CHIHANA-CHAN
YUP!
LIVE CONCERT?

MIKI .. AN OMINOUS FUTURE..
A DREAM THAT ROW WILL KILL MIKI...
HUH...?
CHIHANA-CHAN DO YOU...
LIKE MIKI?
UM...
HOW ARE MIKI AND ROW DOING?
WORRIED?

AND UNLIKE ME, MIKI HAS A VERY PRETTY AURA.
THAT'S TRUE
HE IS MY FIRST FRIEND...
YES.
AND I...
TOTALLY HAVE AN ULTERIOR MOTIVE!
CHOW, DON'T BE SILLY.
YOUR AURA IS VERY PRETTY AS WELL.
NO...

A WARM AND STRAIGHT-FORWARD AURA
DIFFERENT FROM MIKI
CHIHANA-CHAN...
WHAT IS THAT SCENT?
OH! IT'S THE PERFUME WE'RE DOING THE COMMERCIAL FOR, "DARKNESS"

IF YOU LIKE IT, I CAN GIVE IT TO YOU AS A PRESENT!
YES... IT'S SUPPOSED TO HAVE JUST A SMALL AMOUNT OF DEMON BONES IN IT.
WHAT A MYSTERIOUS SCENT. A LITTLE MALEVOLENCE?
THE SCENT OF THE SHADOWS, 'DARKNESS'
DEMON BONES THAT CALL TO DEMONS.
OKAY, OKAY. SO YOU'RE BUYING A TV AS WELL.
THIS! THIS! I WANT THIS!
HEY! KAICHI!

CALL ME WHEN YOU DECIDE.
It's not new or a refurbished used one.
WHAT? LET'S GET A NEW ONE!
We're only supposed an air conditioner and a desk lamp.
NO, RYU WE CAN STILL USE OUR TV
I'M JUST THE DRIVER.
THAT'S OKAY.
Why don't you look at the CD's or something?
LOOKS LIKE THIS IS GOING TO TAKE QUITE A WHILE
WELL
IF IT'S ABOUT THE OUMA WARD
HEY
THAT KAIMEI OF YOURS CAN FIND OUT ANYTHING RIGHT?
DID SOMETHING HAPPEN TO PISS YOU OFF TODAY?
EASILY READ BY EVERYONE

TSUGUMI?
CLATTER
THERE'S SOMETHING I WANT HIM TO CHECK OUT...
BEEP
CAN YOU GET SOME DETAILED INFORMATION ON HIM?
HE'S SLEEPER'S NEW MANAGER.
KAIMEI?
SOMETHING BOTHERS ME?
TSUGUMI...

File Not Found.

File Not Found.

File Not Found.

BEEP

CLATTER

File Not Found.

The requested subject was not found on this memory.

KAIME!
REALLY?
THE DATA IS PROTECTED
THIS IS THE FIRST TIME THIS HAS HAPPENED
A-I-
BEEP
FILE NOT FOUND
FORMERLY BAY AREA HOTEL
CURRENTLY OUMA WARD PUBLIC HOUSING
EVEN KAIME! COULDN'T FIND OUT

LIKE I CAN WORK WITH A GUY LIKE THAT!
WE'LL JUST HAVE TO WATCH HOW THINGS GO FOR A WHILE
HE'S PRETTY SUSPICIOUS THAT TSUGUMI GUY...
THE SIX OF US HAVE MANAGED THIS FAR.
IT'LL BE ALL RIGHT.
HUH?
PEOPLE WANT TO SEE YOU DANCE AND SING IN PERSON.
PLUS
THAT'S TRUE BUT...

NO!
NO WAY! YOU WANT TO SEE ME DANCE AND SING, MIKI? ♡
IDIOT! THE FANS!
IT'S POINTLESS FOR ME TO SEE YOU AND BE THRILLED!
HUH ?
DANCING AND SINGING IS LIKE TRYING TO WIN SOMEONE'S HEART, RIGHT?
GEEZ.... IS THAT IT...?
WHAT IS THIS "GEEZ"?!

WOULDN'T IT MAKE YOU HAPPIEST
IF YOU CAN DELIGHT THE PERSON YOU LOVE?
You're saying embarrassing things again
KISS
DON'T SING OR DANCE. YOU'LL WAKE UP RYU!
LA LA LA

CRACK
THE RISING DARKNESS
CALLS TO THE DEMON LURKING IN THE SHADOWS

YOU
WHO CALLS ME?
MY NAME IS CHIHANA THE REASON I CALLED YOU...
IS TO ASK YOU A FAVOR, FOR MIKI...

FOR MIKI ...?
THAT'S RIGHT. YOU'RE PROTECTING MIKI, RIGHT?
CALL ME, REI.
MIKI CALLS ME THAT.
REI— I SAW A DREAM.
A DREAM THAT ROW KILLS MIKI.
PLEASE REI, CAN YOU STOP THAT DREAM?

WHAT'S SO FUNNY?
MIKI WILL DIE?
UNCLE
MIKI WON'T DIE
BECAUSE I WILL KILL ROW.
REI-?!

A WICKED DREAM
YOU! CAN'T DO THAT...
IF ROW DIES MIKI WILL BE SAD!
WHY?
MIKI HAS BEEN MINE FROM LONG AGO.
REI...
WHAT TERRIBLE MALEVOLENCE...
IS THE ONE TO DIE MIKI OR ROW...
EVEN IF...
WE'RE APART LIKE THIS...

RUMBLE
SPIRIT OF WATER!
...Ki
...

Mi...ki
...
SOMEONE
SOMEONE IS CALLING ME...
Miki...
SPLOTCH

MIKI...
THE WATER CALLS ME... MY BODY IS DRAWN TO THE WATER...
SPLASH
SPLASH

THERE'S NO BOTTOM?!
A BLUE MURKINESS THAT SUCKS ME IN...
.....!
TWITCH

WHAT ?!
THIS WATER PUSHES THROUGH MY BODY
SCATTERS PETALS
AH...
SHAKES LEAVES
BRUSHES BACK THE GRASS
SWITCH

STOP IT!
MIKI...
AND TWINES AROUND MY BODY, SUFFOCATINGLY
SWISH
SWISH

YOUR FEELINGS WON'T REACH MIKI'S HEART.
WHAT ...?
NOTHING WILL RESULT FROM YOU DOING THAT.
HEART ...?
SQUEEZE

PLOP
PLOP PLOP PLOP
SPLASH
HAA
COUGH COUGH
SHIVER
WHAT AM I DOING...?

I KNEW THAT VOICE

THAT WASN'T A DEMON VOICE DRAGGING ME INTO THE DARKNESS

THE WARMTH THAT ENVELOPED ME IN THE WATER—

RE!...
RE!...
WHY DO YOU STAY NEAR MIKI?
EVEN THOUGH YOU'RE A DEMON, YOU JUST WATCH OVER HIM AND NEVER SHOW YOURSELF...

BECAUSE I PROMISED ...
IN ORDER TO BE WITH MIKI FOREVER...
IN ORDER TO PROTECT MIKI...
PROMISED ...?

IN EXCHANGE, MIKI FORGETS MY EXISTENCE
AND FORGETS THE TIME HE SPENT WITH ME.
THAT WAS THE PROMISE ...

WHO IN THE WORLD DID YOU MAKE A PROMISE LIKE THAT WITH?
WE CAN ONLY
MEET IN DREAMS NOW.
REI

WHY?
BUT I CAN'T REMEMBER ANYTHING
I SHOULD KNOW RE! FROM A LONG TIME AGO, BUT...
WHAT HAPPENED? YOU'RE SOAKING WET...
ROW

LEAVE ME ALONE...
WHY NOT?
STILL WEARING YOUR CLOTHES?
I WAS A LITTLE HOT, SO I BATHED IN SOME WATER
THE MALEVOLENCE THAT COILS AROUND MIKI'S BODY...
WHAT?

WAIT!
...WHAT?
NO . THIS ISN'T MALEVOLENCE SO MUCH AS...
SOMETHING SWEETER, PLAINLY...
MIKI...
YOU...

SLAP
ARE YOU FLIRTING?
YOU'RE THE ONE THAT'S JOKING AROUND
STOP JOKING AROUND!
WITH YOUR BODY THIS HOT—
LET ME GO!

STOP IT...!
STOP IT, ROW!!
OR ARE YOU NOT SATISFIED WITH MY FINGERS?
FLUSH
WHY...?
IT'S WHAT I ALWAYS DO TO YOU.
SLAP

Hee
Hee
Hee
MIKI, YOU DON'T KNOW
ROW ....!!
FIRES ME UP...
GRAB
THAT THE ANGER YOU EMIT...

NO!
AH!
TWITCH
ROW..
.....
THE FEELINGS WON'T STOP
HA....
HAA
IRRITATION
CONFUSION

HA...
THEY BOIL UP ONE AFTER ANOTHER
AH...
.....
PU...
IT HURTS
AH...
NO..
AN UNEASY DESIRE

REI
AAH ...!
ARE YOU CRYING?
CRY...?

#2 真実かぬりか I ××REAL or FAKE I ✚ END

SLEEPER
BY CATHERINE AYAKO
SCANNED BY: OKAASAN
TRANSLATED BY: INSANENEKO
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THE NODEADLINE MANGA SCANSLATION GROUP